

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Please amend Claims 1, 5, 7-10, 12-17, 21, 37, and 45-47, and cancels Claims 3, 11, 18-19, 28-36, 43, and 49, all as shown below.

1. (Currently Amended) A memory for storing data for access by an application program being executed on a computer system, comprising:

a data structure stored in said memory, the data structure including or referring to:

a name;

a content repository identifier;

a plurality of properties;

a plurality of property definitions associated with the plurality of properties; and

a reference to a parent data structure;

wherein the data structure is logically part of a virtual content repository (VCR), and wherein the VCR represents ~~at least one content repository~~ a plurality of content repositories logically as a single content repository from the application program's viewpoint.

2. (Original) The memory of claim 1 wherein the content repository identifier comprises:

a repository name; and

a content identifier that is unique for the content repository.

3. (Canceled).

4. (Original) The memory of claim 1 wherein:

a property is an association between a name and at least one value; and

wherein the at least one value can be stored in one of the at least one content repositories.

5. (Currently Amended) The memory of claim 4 wherein:

the at least one value can be a text string, a number, an image, an ~~audio/visual~~ audio and visual presentation, or binary data.

6. (Original) The memory of claim 1 wherein:

a property definition can specify at least one of the following for a property:

property choices;

- a reference;
- a data type;
- whether the property is mandatory;
- whether the property is multi-valued;
- whether the property is primary;
- whether the property is read-only; and
- whether the property is restricted.

7. (Currently Amended) The memory of claim 1 wherein:  
the data structure is hierarchically related to other data structures and the ~~at least one~~  
content repository plurality of content repositories.
8. (Currently Amended) The memory of claim 7 wherein:  
the data structure is hierarchically inferior to the ~~at least one content repository plurality~~  
of content repositories.
9. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium containing a data structure  
for representing information in a virtual content repository (VCR), said data structure comprising:
  - a name;
  - a content repository identifier;
  - a plurality of properties;
  - a plurality of property definitions associated with the plurality of properties; and
  - a reference to a parent data structure;wherein the data structure is logically part of the VCR, and wherein the VCR represents  
~~at least one content repository~~ a plurality of content repositories logically as a single content  
repository.
10. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium of claim 9 wherein the  
content repository identifier comprises:
  - a repository name; and
  - a content identifier that is unique for the content repository.
11. (Canceled).

12. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium of claim 9 wherein:  
a property is an association between a name and at least one value; and  
wherein the at least one value can be stored in one of the at least one content repositories.
13. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium of claim 12 wherein:  
the at least one value can be a text string, a number, an image, an audio/visual audio and visual presentation, or binary data.
14. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium of claim 9 wherein:  
a property definition can specify at least one of the following for a property:
  - property choices;
  - a reference;
  - a data type;
  - whether the property is mandatory;
  - whether the property is multi-valued;
  - whether the property is primary;
  - whether the property is read-only; and
  - whether the property is restricted.
15. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium of claim 9 wherein:  
the data structure is hierarchically related to other data structures and the at least one content repository plurality of content repositories.
16. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium of claim 15 wherein:  
the data structure is hierarchically inferior to the at least one content repository plurality of content repositories.
17. (Currently Amended) A memory for storing virtual content repository (VCR) information for access by an application program being executed on a computer system, comprising:
  - a data structure stored in said memory, the data structure including:
    - a root node;

a first set of nodes wherein each node in the first set can be hierarchically related to at least one other node in the first set, and wherein all nodes in the first set are hierarchically inferior to the root node;

a second set of nodes associated with the first set of nodes, wherein the second set of nodes provides schema information for the first set of nodes;

wherein the VCR represents a plurality of content repositories logically as a single content repository from the application program's viewpoint;

wherein each one of the first set of nodes has an identifier that indicates its logical location in the hierarchy formed by the first set of nodes;

wherein each one of the first set of nodes can represent one of: 1) a node container; 2) repository content; and 3) a repository; and

wherein each one of the first set of nodes can be associated with the at least one property.

18-19. (Canceled).

20. (Original) The memory of claim 17 wherein:

a property is an association between a name and at least one value.

21. (Currently Amended) The memory of claim 20 wherein:

the at least one value can be a text string, a number, an image, an audio/visual audio and visual presentation, or binary data.

22. (Original) The memory of claim 17 wherein:

a second node belonging to the second set of nodes can be associated with at least one property definition.

23. (Original) The memory of claim 22 wherein:

a property definition can specify at least one of the following for a property:

property choices;

a reference;

a data type;

whether the property is mandatory;

whether the property is multi-valued;

whether the property is primary;  
whether the property is read-only; and  
whether the property is restricted.

24. (Original) The memory of claim 22 wherein:  
there is a property definition for each property associated with each one of the first set of nodes.

25. (Original) The memory of claim 17 wherein:  
a first node belonging to the first set of nodes that represents a container can be hierarchically inferior to a second node belonging to the first set of nodes that represents one of:  
1) a container; and 2) a repository.

26. (Original) The memory of claim 17 wherein:  
a first node belonging to the first set of nodes that represents a repository can be a direct child of the root node.

27. (Original) The memory of claim 17 wherein:  
a first node belonging to the first set of nodes that represents content can be a direct or indirect child of a second node belonging to the first set of nodes that represents one of: 1) repository content; 2) a container; and 3) a repository.

28-36. (Canceled).

37. (Currently Amended) A memory for storing data for access by an application program being executed on a computer system, comprising:  
a first object to provide a first group of services related to interacting with a hierarchical namespace;  
a plurality of second objects to provide a second group of services related to associating information with the first object;  
a plurality of third objects to provide a third group of services related to describing attributes of the plurality of second objects;  
wherein the first object is logically part of a virtual content repository (VCR) and includes a reference to a parent object, and wherein the VCR represents at least one content repository

a plurality of content repositories logically as a single content repository from the application program's viewpoint.

38. (Original) The memory of claim 37 wherein the first group of services comprises:  
first functions that enable associating the plurality of first objects with locations in the namespace.
39. (Original) The memory of claim 37 wherein the second group of services comprises:  
second functions that enable creating, reading, updating and deleting the information.
40. (Original) The memory of claim 37 wherein the third group of services comprises:  
third functions that enable specifying at least one of the following for the plurality of second objects:  
property choices;  
a reference;  
a data type;  
whether the property is mandatory;  
whether the property is multi-valued;  
whether the property is primary;  
whether the property is read-only; and  
whether the property is restricted.
41. (Original) The memory of claim 37 further comprising:  
a plurality of fourth objects to specify locations of the plurality of first objects in the namespace.
42. (Original) The memory of claim 41 wherein each of the plurality of fourth objects includes:  
a content repository name; and  
a content identifier that is unique for the content repository.
43. (Canceled).
44. (Original) The memory of claim 37, further comprising:

a fifth object to provide a fifth set of services related to searching the VCR;

45. (Currently Amended) The memory of claim 37 wherein:  
each of the plurality of second objects associates a name and at least one value; and  
wherein the at least one value can be stored in one of the ~~at least one content repository~~  
plurality of content repositories.
46. (Currently Amended) The memory of claim 45 wherein:  
the at least one value can be a text string, a number, an image, an audio/visual audio  
and visual presentation, or binary data.
47. (Currently Amended) The memory of claim 37 wherein:  
~~each of the plurality of first objects~~ the first object is hierarchically related to other objects  
and to the ~~at least one content repository~~ plurality of content repositories.
48. (Original) The memory of claim 37, further comprising:  
a sixth object to provide a sixth set of services related to configuring the VCR.
49. (Canceled).